

ILLINOIS
**Department
on Aging**

Network NEWS

Winter 2002

Statewide Program Reaches Out to Family Caregivers

Announced during National Family Caregiver Month

Family members and friends who care for older adults can now receive assistance through a new state program, Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo E. Schreiber announced in November.

"Local agencies serving seniors will expand their target audience, and will offer additional help to family members and friends who are caring for their loved ones," Schreiber said. "It is one more way to fulfill Governor Ryan's agenda of making Department services more accessible to a broader range of Illinoisans."

Schreiber explained that the Department on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging throughout the state have established more than 100 "Caregiver Resource Centers" within existing, familiar locations like senior centers. The centers will offer information and assistance, and direct family caregivers to the right places to receive additional services. Services range from training and support groups to respite, or services that allow caregivers to take a break from the constant demands of caregiving.

Schreiber said November was an especially appropriate time to

announce the new efforts to help caregivers because it is National Family Caregiver Month, and the holiday season provided an opportunity to check on older relatives,

as well as those caring for them.

She noted that family caregivers often neglect their own needs because they are so busy, and they are prone to health problems including depression. They also often become overwhelmed with financial and emotional demands associated with caregiving.

Caregiver *continued on back ➤*



Illinois Council on Aging members joined Illinois Department on Aging Director and former Council member Margo Schreiber at the Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services in December in Chicago. Pictured here are Mr. and Mrs. Vasil Eftimoff (far left); Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Moore (seated center); Al Galvin, Director Schreiber and Ralph Cianchetti (top row); and Dr. Armen Mesrobian (seated right). The Council makes recommendations to the Department on Aging, the Governor and the General Assembly regarding programs and services for older Illinoisans.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is such a privilege to host the Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services, and I was especially proud to do so for our most recent conference with the theme, "Creating a Network of Care."

Our renewed emphasis on caregiving really gets to the "roots" of our network as we reach out to seniors and their caregivers. As I stated during the opening session of the conference, there are four main ingredients in our work. These are kindness, compassion, answers and energy. And, we all have the heart and soul – as well as the skill and knowledge – that it takes to generate these ingredients.

As we enter the new year, we will continue helping people discover services offered through the network. We will lead them to senior centers and services such as home delivered meals, homemaker, respite and adult day services. We can give them answers about assisted living and nursing home care. We can lead them to resources and help them pay for prescription drugs or heating bills.



All of us have the power to help seniors and their caregivers in so many ways. As I mentioned at the Conference, it takes all of **YOU** individually and all of **US** together to create this network of care. We are the ones who are "there" for seniors, and I thank each of you for believing in this mission.

I can't tell you how proud I am to work by your side as we renew our commitment in 2002 to continue building a network of care that makes a world of difference in the lives of older people and their families across Illinois. Thank you and Happy New Year.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margo E. Schreiber".

Margo E. Schreiber, Director

Computers for Seniors

The Illinois Department on Aging, in coordination with the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, donated used computers to 39 senior centers throughout the state. The centers who applied for and received the computers were those who could not afford to purchase this technology. The Department's goal in donating the computers is to assist seniors in completing Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program applications. The computers will also be used to help caregivers, grandparents raising grandchildren and others access information through the Internet. ❖

The Adult Day Service program offered through the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center is now able to serve additional clients in Coles, Edgar and Cumberland Counties with the purchase of a new van. The van was funded through \$21,000 in Older Americans Act Title III-E funds, while an additional \$19,000 was funded locally.

Pictured here celebrating the acquisition are (from left):

Kim Key, Adult Day Service Program Manager; **Amy Etnire**, Nurse Assistant; **Lela Tapella**, representing Congressman David Phelps; and **State Senator Judy Myers**. In back are **Justin Russell**, Adult Day Services Program Aid, and **Linda Kimball**, Women and Children's Services Administrator Director. On the right are: **State Rep. Dale Righter**; **Bert Weber**, Illinois Department on Aging; East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging **Director Mike O'Donnell**, and **Todd Lindley**, Executive Vice President of the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation.



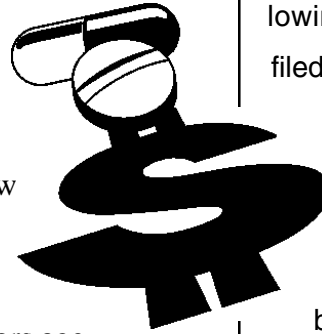
Illinois Seeks Federal Approval for Expanded Pharmaceutical Program For Seniors

The Illinois Department of Public Aid announced in late December that it is in the final stages of negotiating an agreement with the federal government on a proposal to provide pharmaceutical coverage to as many as one-third of the state's seniors. The proposal has been under preliminary review by the federal government since Illinois submitted its plan to the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS) on July 31, 2001. Approval from CMMS must be granted before the state can access federal matching funds for this program.

Governor Ryan presented his concept for this innovative prescription drug plan to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson, during a

meeting this past April in Chicago. The pending waiver program would allow Illinois to provide a broad pharmaceutical benefit to low income Illinois seniors age 65 and older. Those with annual incomes up to about \$29,400 for a couple would be covered under the plan as submitted. The Department estimates the program would serve about 370,000 seniors when fully implemented.

The proposed program is modeled on the state's existing Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance program, administered by the Department of Revenue. However, the new program would include a full range of drugs. ✧



This year, the Illinois Department of Revenue is allowing those who previously filed **Circuit Breaker / Pharmaceutical Assistance**

applications to file via the Internet. Those who are eligible must have been approved in 2001 when filing a 2000 application, have no change in marital status, not claiming qualified additional residents and are not required to file Schedules A (Doctor's statement) or P (Projected Income for Pharmaceutical Assistance). The application will be available February 4, 2002, at www.ILtax.com. ✧

Suburban Area Agency Names Legislators of the Year

The Suburban Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors adopted a resolution naming four local lawmakers "Legislator of the Year" for 2001. The award is presented when the agency and its governing board witness exceptional effort and outstanding advocacy on part of elected officials for suburban Cook County seniors and the Aging Network.

In 2001, the work of four legislators stood out and was recognized by award presentations. They are: **State Senator Louis Viverito** of Burbank; **State Representative**

Elizabeth Coulson of Glenview; **State Representative Suzanne Bassi** of Palatine, and **State Representative M. Maggie Crotty** of Oak Forest.

"We appreciate the diligence of our local legislators in supporting our work and programs," said Jonathan Lavin, Executive Director of the Suburban Area Agency on Aging. "By working together, we have made important strides in providing benefits and services to seniors." The Legislator of the Year Award is significant because it is not presented on an annual basis unless there is exceptional effort to support seniors. ✧

Learn More About the Federal Earned Income Credit

The Earned Income Credit (EIC) is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low to moderate incomes. Workers who qualify for the EIC and file a federal tax return can get back some or all of the federal income tax that was taken out of their pay during the year. They may also get extra cash back from the IRS. Even workers whose earnings are too small to have paid taxes can get the EIC. Area Agencies on Aging have been sent information about this benefit. For more information, call Paul Crutchfield at (312) 814-2927. ✧



Health Corner

Aid For Arthritis

There are 43 million Americans with arthritis, and they buy more over-the-counter remedies than any other group. The Arthritis Foundation examined 67 supplements and offers a free guide on their use, effectiveness, possible side effects or drug interactions, plus other tips. To order, call 1-800-283-7800 or go to www.arthritis.org.

EyeCare America Celebrates 15 years of service

EyeCare America – National Eye Care Project is a public service outreach program ensuring elderly Americans have access to medical eye care. The program is designed for those without access to an ophthalmologist or without means to pay. The project has helped over 600,000 older Americans since 1986.

Eligible callers to the toll-free Helpline are matched with one of 7,300 volunteer ophthalmologists nationwide. The physician provides a comprehensive medical eye examination and treatment for any condition diagnosed at the initial visit. If a disease is diagnosed and requires ongoing care, treatment is provided through the project for one year.

Those who qualify are age 65 or older who have not seen an ophthalmologist in the last three years. Patients who are in a prepaid health care plan (HMO) or who obtain care through a government care facility (Armed Forces or VA) are not eligible.

Funding for the National Eye Care Project is from the Foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc., state ophthalmological societies and volunteer ophthalmologists. For more information, call the National Eye Care Project Helpline at 1-800-222-EYES.

Alzheimer's Disease Research Fund now in its 16th year

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, an estimated 210,600 Illinoisans have Alzheimer's disease, an incurable, progressive, terminal neurological disease that impairs thinking and behavior. Although the incidence of Alzheimer's disease increases with age, it is NOT a normal part of aging. The eight- to 30-year progression of Alzheimer's disease inflicts a high physical, emotional, social and financial toll on persons with the disease, their families and their caregivers. Currently, there is no cure, prevention or effective treatment, but Illinois research is exploring genetics, drug studies and social interventions.

To support this research, you can donate as little as \$1 to a special fund on your state income tax return (line 28c on your form). All money collected will be spent in Illinois on research that focuses on prevention, early detection, cure and treatment of Alzheimer's.

A minimum of \$100,000 must be collected each year for the fund to appear on the following

February is American Heart Month

During February, American Heart Month, the American Heart Association urges people to learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED).

More than 220,000 Americans die suddenly each year due to cardiac arrest. It occurs when the heart fibrillates, or beats out of control. Only five percent of cardiac arrest victims survive, usually because CPR and AED are provided too late to reverse the damage. An AED, or heart

shocker machine, actually shocks the heart back into a normal rhythm.

For more information, call the American Heart Association toll-free at 1-877-AHA-4CPR.

CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE remains the nation's number one killer. Learn the warning signs of a heart attack and call 911 immediately if you or someone you know experiences the signs.

Heart attack warning signs:

Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach.

Shortness of breath. This feeling often comes with chest discomfort.

Other signs: These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or light-headedness.

year's tax form. This is the 16th year for the fund, which has received more than \$2.3 million and supported 104 research studies.

National Alcohol Screening Day

National Alcohol Screening day is April 11, 2002, and focuses on alcohol problems in the elderly population. Educational materials are available by calling Screening for Mental Health at 781-239-0071 or visiting www.mentalhealthscreening.org.

IDPH Office of Women's Health: Funding Opportunities for 2003

The Illinois Department of Public Health - Office of Women's Health has funds available to support community activities addressing women's health. The fiscal year 2003 grant priority areas are cardiovascular disease, eating disorders, menopause and osteoporosis prevention and awareness. Six model programs are available. Applicants select from the menu of model programs that address the needs of women in their community. The programs are titled: Heart Smart for Women, Heart Smart for Teens, Eating Disorders, Understanding Menopause, Building Better Bones and Osteoporosis Provider Education. Proposals are due March 15, 2002. The funding period is July 1, 2002, through June 30, 2003. For more information or a grant application call 217-524-6088 or visit www.idph.state.il.us.

Glaucoma Testing Urged During National Glaucoma Month

As of Jan. 1, 2002, Medicare pays for glaucoma detection exams for recipients 60 and older who are at high risk or have a family history of the disease. More information is available at 1-800-331-2020.

Fire Risk is High in Winter Months

December through February is peak fire period: A residential blaze strikes in America every 85 seconds. Nearly all fire deaths are in homes without working smoke alarms. Most fires occur while people are asleep, and their sense of smell is dulled. The following are fire safety tips from the Illinois State Fire Marshal:

- Install and maintain smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them each month and replace batteries in accordance with manufacturing requirements or when alarm begins to chirp.
- Plan and practice two ways out. Fire escape routes must not include elevators. Choose a meeting place outside where everyone will gather. Once out, stay out.
- Test doors before opening them. If the door is hot, use another escape route.
- Crawl low under smoke. If you must exit through smoke, the cleanest air will be several inches off the floor. Crawl on your hands and knees to the nearest safe exit.
- If you are trapped, close the doors between you and the fire. Stuff the cracks around the doors to keep smoke out. Wait at a window and signal for help. If there is a phone in the room, call the fire department and tell them exactly where you are.
- Stop, Drop and Roll. If your clothes catch fire, don't run. Stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands, and roll over to smother flames.
- Space heaters and space. Keep portable and space heaters at least three feet from anything that can burn. Never leave heaters on when you leave home or go to bed and keep children and pets away from them.
- Smokers need watchers. Carelessly discarded cigarettes are the leading cause of fire deaths in the U.S. Never smoke in bed or when you are drowsy.
- Be careful cooking. Never leave cooking unattended. If grease catches fire, slide a lid over the pan to smother flames, then turn off the burner. Never put foil or other metals in a microwave.
- Keep matches and lighters from children. Tell children from the start that matches and lighters are tools for adults, not toys for kids.
- Use electricity safely. If an appliance smokes or has an unusual smell, unplug it immediately and have it repaired. Replace any electrical cord that is cracked or frayed. Don't overload extension cords or run them under rugs. Don't tamper with the fuse box or use fuses of an improper size.
- Cool a burn. If someone gets burned, immediately place the wound in cool water for 10 to 15 minutes. If the burn blisters or chars, see a doctor. ✧

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Awards Presented at the Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services

Individuals and groups were honored during an awards presentation held at the Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services December 14, 2001, at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago.

AARP presented its **Bright Star for Seniors Award** to:

Gene Manuel, of **Robinson**, a volunteer with AARP's federal advocacy program. Manuel was recognized for promoting the needs of seniors before the state legislature, founding the Robinson Senior Expo, and hosting a town meeting about the high cost of prescription medications.

Pat Polos, of **Chicago**, **John Herman** of **Arlington Heights**, and **Amy Paschedag**, of **Edwardsville**, long time volunteers with AARP's state legislative program. Polos served as Coordinator of a Chicago-based AARP volunteer group, and Herman and Paschedag are former chairs of the State Legislative Committee. Herman has also served on AARP's National Legislative Committee, and has taken leadership on tax, utility and managed care issues. Polos worked to achieve passage of the 1999 Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act. Paschedag played a critical role in the expansion of the Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program.

State Senators Carole Ronen of **Chicago** and **David Sullivan** of **Mt. Prospect** and



From left, Donna Ginther of AARP, Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo Schreiber, Mary Patton of AARP and Cynthia Worsley, Director of the Illinois Association of Senior Centers. The Association presented the AARP State Legislative Committee with an award in "Recognition for Outstanding Support." AARP's State Legislative Committee helped the Association advocate for senior centers and provided training and education. Through the help of the Committee, the Illinois General Assembly is gaining a better understanding of senior centers. AARP also helped in the successful completion of a survey of 155 senior centers.

State Representatives

Julie Hamos of **Evanston** and **Tom Cross** of **Yorkville**. The legislators were recognized for enacting pro-consumer telecommunication changes which benefit residential telephone subscribers.

The Illinois Association of Nutrition Project Directors based in **Effingham** presented its **Shining Star Award** to:

Michael Strader, of **Charleston**, Director of the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program. Strader has served as director of the program since 1975 and it has grown to serve 14 counties with 1,600 meals daily. He was also recognized for his fund-raising skills, advocacy and always being a knowledgeable and energetic activist on behalf of seniors.



Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo Schreiber (left) and Debbie Weber, President of the Illinois Association of Nutrition Project Directors, present Mike Strader with the Association's "Shining Star" Award. Strader has been director of the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program since 1975, which has grown to serve nearly 1,600 meals daily in 14 counties.

The Illinois Adult Day Service Association presented its **Adult Day Services Employee of the Year Award** to:

Karen Cripps, of **Mt. Vernon**, co-chair of the Association's Legislative Committee, for her "diligence with legislators that has made Adult



Mike O'Donnell, President of the Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Illinois Department on Aging Director Margo Schreiber present the Sid Granet Aging Network Achievement Award to Dee Harper and Marilyn Shelby (shown at left), Co-Directors of the Edwards County Council on Aging since 1992. Dee and Marilyn, along with their staff and volunteers were cited for making the Council "the pride of the community." The Council serves 75 percent of all the people in Edwards County who are 60 and older.



Margo Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, presents Loretta Vinegar, Area Administrator of Community Care Systems, Inc. of Chicago, with the Governor's Award for Excellence during the awards ceremony at the Governor's Conference. Vinegar is the originator of the "70 Plus Club" for the special men and women who serve as caregivers to other seniors. (See the photo above.)



The Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the Illinois Department on Aging presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dorothy S. Kimball in recognition of her achievements as Executive Director of Project LIFE Area Agency on Aging in Springfield. Kimball retired on December 31, 2001.

Day Services a household word around the capitol." Cripps has kept the Association's membership advised and continually updated about how efforts were going.

The **Illinois Council of Case Coordination Units** presented its **Case Manager of the Year Award** to:

Kate Marshall of **LaGrange**, who works as a Case Manager and Supervisor at the **Southwest Suburban Center on Aging**. In addition to serving her own clients, Marshall is the chief trainer for new staff. In addition to working for seniors, Marshall performs community service, and she and her family provide home cooked holiday meals to approximately 100 homebound seniors.

The **Illinois Department on Aging** presented its **Award for Excellence** to:

The Seniors Servicing Seniors 70 Plus Club. The Club recognizes seniors who work in service to other seniors as homemakers. They are known for low absenteeism, a willingness to help out whenever needed, ability to work as a team member and to mentor younger workers. There are currently 59 "70 Plus" Club members and the average age is 76.

The **Illinois Association of Area Agencies on Aging** presented its **Sid Granet Aging Network Achievement Awards** to:

Bethel New Life of **Chicago** and **Dee Harper** and **Marilyn Shelby**, Co-Directors of the **Edwards County Council on Aging**, based in **Albion**.

Awards *continued* ➤

Affordable Housing Program Announced

Governor George H. Ryan announced in January a new state housing tax credit program that will pour up to \$26 million more each year into Illinois' efforts to finance affordable houses and apartments for low- and moderate-income residents. Applications will be accepted April 8, for first-year awards.

Governor Ryan said the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), the state's housing finance agency, will receive three-quarters of the funding, with 24.5 percent earmarked for the city of Chicago.

IHDA Executive Director Peter R. Dwars said enactment of what is informally called the "Donation

Tax Credit" represents the state's second direct commitment of affordable housing resources. The first was passage in 1989 of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, under which IHDA has helped finance nearly 27,000 units.

The Donation Tax Credit allows individuals or organizations to give a minimum of \$10,000 in cash, securities, personal property, or real estate to participating nonprofit housing developers. If the nonprofit applies successfully to IHDA or Chicago's Department of Housing, the donor will receive a 50-cents-on-the-dollar state income tax credit. This means an affordable housing gift worth \$10,000 costs a donor \$5,000.

Meanwhile, the nonprofit affordable housing developer uses its IHDA or Chicago housing tax credit award to help finance projects providing reasonably priced housing. The General Assembly authorized up to \$13 million annually in housing credits. If \$13 million in donations are made, the total first-year affordable housing infusion is \$26 million. The state commitment climbs 5 percent a year.

The first application deadline for the program was January 7, and the second deadline is April 8, 2002. Application materials and more information about Donation Tax Credits can be found at IHDA's Web site at www.ihda.org.



Awards *continued*

Bethel New Life is a faith-based community development corporation serving Humboldt Park, West Garfield Park and the Austin community. It was recognized for providing resources, spiritual enrichment and social and recreational programs for seniors.

Harper and Shelby became co-directors of the Edwards County Council on Aging in 1992 and have worked well together to achieve the best for seniors in their region. They have made the Council the pride of the community.

and, its **Lifetime Achievement Award** to:

Dorothy S. Kimball, Executive Director, **Project LIFE Area Agency on Aging, Springfield**. Kimball joined the staff as Assis-

tant Director in 1972, when it was a demonstration project under sponsorship of Senior Citizens of Sangamon County. Since 1974, when Project LIFE became an Area Agency on Aging, Kimball has helped the Agency grow. Throughout her 29 years at Project LIFE, Kimball has worked hard to make aging services comprehensive. Kimball retired at year's end and was replaced by Julie Hubbard.

The Illinois Association of Illinois Senior Centers presented its **Senior Center Symbol of Excellence Awards** to:

Pat Hensley, of **Joliet**, Illinois Association of Illinois Senior Centers President from October 1, 1999, to September 30, 2001. Hensley was recognized for providing increased membership,



**2001 Governor's
Conference on Aging
and Human Services**

*Creating a Network
of Care*

additional member benefits and advocacy for the funding of senior centers.

Will County Senior Services Center, Joliet, was recognized for membership support for the success of the Association. During Pat Hensley's tenure as President of the Association, the center supported her office with monetary donations, printing and copying services and newspaper publishing.

Southwest Airlines Helped Seniors Over Holidays

Since the inception of its Home for the Holidays Program in 1979, Southwest Airlines has helped thousands of senior citizens join families and friends for holiday celebrations and reunions that they might otherwise miss.

Partnering again with the Suburban Area Agency on Aging, nine applicants were recently selected to receive complimentary air transportation to cities served by Southwest Airlines.

Jonathan Lavin, Executive Director of the Suburban Area Agency on Aging and representatives of Southwest Airlines presented the tickets at the Chicago Cultural Center on December 5, 2001. Those selected were: **William and Jean Bike** of River Grove; **Evelyn English** of Morton Grove; **Lorraine Kamin** of Niles; **Lidia Lopez** of Palatine; **Mildred Miller** of Niles; **Laura Palumba** of Burr Ridge; **Patrick Spillane** of Norridge; and **Ethel Zawodniak** of Posen.

To qualify for a complimentary ticket, applicants must be 65 or older and living on a fixed income. Applications are available from the Suburban Area Agency on Aging in the fall of each year. ✂



Valentines for Vets

Did you know that on any given day there are approximately 187,000 veterans treated through the 172 Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers nationwide? The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans will be observed February 10-17, 2002, which includes Valentine's Day. Many school groups and other organizations learn more about the contributions of veterans during that week and also send valentines to them to show appreciation for their sacrifices. Addresses of veterans facilities can be obtained by calling the VA toll-free number at (800) 827-1000 or visiting www.va.gov/volunteer. ✂

Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant Deadline Approaching

Registration continues for women participating in the Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant to be held March 14-17, 2002, in Oakbrook Terrace. "Nominations should be sent in as soon as possible, as the pageant will be held in just a few weeks," said Margo E. Schreiber, Director of the Illinois Department on Aging, a pageant sponsor along with Mather Lifeways.

For an application or more information about the 13th Annual Ms. Illinois American Classic Woman Pageant, call the Illinois Department on Aging's Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY). The application must be accompanied by a \$100 entry fee, which may be obtained through scholarships. ✂

Effingham City/County Committee on Aging for its celebration of National Senior Center Week each May. During this week, the Committee hosts events including a health screening for seniors and an intergenerational program.

AARP State Legislative Committee and **Representative Bill Mitchell** of **Forsyth** for advocating for senior centers in Illinois, support in the successful completion of a survey of 155 senior centers throughout the state, and increasing awareness of the role that senior centers play.

The **Illinois Association of Community Care Program Homecare Providers** presented its **Mary I. Hill Homecare Assistant Awards** to several individuals who perform in-home services for seniors and provide the essential link among clients, homecare agencies, and case managers. The following were given awards for their dedication, exceptional problem solving skills and positive impact on their client's well-being:

Annie Fleming, Casa Central, **Chicago**.

Lennie Mae Reed, Addus HealthCare, **Waukegan**.

Shigeyo Matsuda, Japanese American Service Committee.

Shirley Hoyle, Adult Comprehensive Human Services, **West Frankfort**.

Velma Tracy, Intouch Services, Lutheran Social Services, **Peoria**. ✂

Legislative Update

2002 brings new Illinois laws:

All Assisted Living and Shared Housing facilities need to get **licenses**. The application can be accessed at www.idph.state.il/whatsnew.

HOUSE BILL 0846 (Brosnahan/Parker) Changes the definition of a person with disabilities to include an individual who cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest for the following reasons: the individual cannot walk without an assistive device; is restricted by lung disease; uses portable oxygen, has a cardiac condition or is severely limited in the ability to walk due to an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.

HOUSE BILL 0313 (Holbrook/Obama) Provides that inspectors and employees of the Department of Public Health who notify a facility of a pending complaint investigation or inspection be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, fined up to \$2,500 and disciplined by their employer. Superiors who knowingly allowed the prenotification are subject to the same penalties. The Department must file a complaint with the Attorney General of the situation within 30 days.

SENATE BILL 1493 (Daniels/Radogno) Makes administrative changes intended to simplify the state's Circuit Breaker/Pharmaceutical Assistance Program. First it shifts the \$2,000 benefit cap on a fiscal year basis, rather than a calendar year basis. As a result, Pharmaceutical Assistance cards

will be valid from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. It also states that cards can be valid for a period longer or shorter than one year, which is necessary to convert all cards issued to a fiscal year renewal basis. Third, it establishes that medical benefit plan providers provide information related to other recipients of medical assistance for purposes of third party reimbursement. Lastly, it provides that Workers' Compensation is considered income for program eligibility.

SENATE BILL 286 (Berns/Jones) Creates a Dementia Patient Care Advisory Committee required to study appropriate care and staffing for dementia patients residing in long-term care facilities and to make recommendations to the Director of the Department of Public Health.

SENATE BILL 0464 (O'Briend/Geo-Karis) In elder abuse cases, expands the "Hearsay exception regarding elder adults (60 or older)" and allows into evidence, after a hearing, out of court statements made by elders, if the elder person suffers from a disability or infirmity.

SENATE BILL 0500 (Fritchey/DeLeo) Creates the Statewide Senior Citizen Victimizer Database Act allowing Illinois State Police to collect information about

persons who have been arrested for committing crimes against persons at least 60 years old. Law enforcement agencies can access the database.

SENATE BILL 0816 (Coulson/Sullivan) Creates the Prevention of Unnecessary Institutionalization Act. Provides that the Department of Human Services and the Department on Aging administer a grant and loan program through which eligible persons age 60 or over and persons with disabilities can be eligible for grants or loans for house modifications or assistive technology devices.

SENATE BILL 0938 (Lang/Madigan) Amends the Illinois Domestic Violence Act of 1986 to include caregivers, as defined in the offense of criminal neglect of an elderly or disabled person, in the definition of "family or household members."

SENATE BILL 0940 (Brosnahan/Madigan) Changes the name of the offense of criminal neglect of an elderly or disabled person to criminal abuse or neglect of an elderly or disabled person. In addition, the offense will now include the acts of physically abusing, harassing, intimidating, interfering with the personal liberty of the elderly or disabled person, and exposing the elderly or disabled person to willful deprivation. The bill also enhances the sentence for persons convicted of such.

Visit the Department's website at www.state.il.us/aging/legis.htm for the most comprehensive and up-to-date status on legislation. ✻

Trainings & Special Events

Feb 13: Skokie; Rebecca Cohen Mem. Ed. Series: **Aging Happens; Our World Turned Upside Down – Reverberations of Trauma**; Council for Jewish Elderly, Cr. for Applied Gerontology; Inst. for Clinical Soc. Work; Nat. Assoc. of Social Workers—Illinois; 773-508-1000.

Feb 21: Springfield; **Time Off In Illinois: State and Federal Laws on Employee Leave, Vacations, and Holidays**; Lorman Education Services; 715-833-3940.

Feb 28-Mar 3: Pittsburgh, PA; **28th An. Assoc. for Gerontology in Higher Ed.**; 202-289-9806.

Mar 6-7: Champaign; **Illinois Senior Service Corps Seminar**; Ill. Dept. on Aging, Ill. Assoc. of RSVP, Service for Nat. Service; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

Mar 6: Mt. Carmel; **Emergency Procedures**; Ill. Dept. on Aging and Ill. Rural Transit Assist. Ctr.; Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706.

Mar 16: Oakbrook; **Ms. Senior Illinois American Classic Woman of the Year Pageant**; Ill. Dept. on Aging; Nancy Sanson, 217-557-8311.

Mar 16: Mattoon; **Passenger Assistance**; Ill. Dept. on Aging and Ill. Rural Transit Assist. Ctr.; Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706.

Organizational Prosperity

How to receive more funding from a variety of sources

March 20
Schaumburg, Illinois

Illinois Department on Aging
Call Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706

Mar 20: Skokie; Rebecca Cohen Mem. Ed. Series: **Aging Happens; When Boundaries Blur – Fulfilling Concrete Needs**; Council for Jewish Elderly, Cr. for Applied Gerontology; Inst. for Clinical Soc. Work; Nat. Assoc. of Social Workers—Illinois; 773-508-1000.

Apr 4-7: Denver, CO; **Joint Conf. of The Nat. Council on the Aging and the Am. Soc. on Aging**; AARP, MetLife Found., Amgen, Pfizer Pharm. Group, AARP Andrus Found., Edison Elec. Inst., MetLife Mature Market Inst., Merck Found.; 800-537-9728.

Apr 9: Quincy; **17:** Effingham; **Emergency Procedures**; Ill. Dept. on Aging and Ill. Rural Transit Assist. Ctr.; Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706.

2nd Annual **Mental Health and Aging Conference**

April 9-10
Holiday Inn City Centre
Chicago

Illinois Department on Aging
Illinois Department of Human Services
Call John Lazell at 217-785-4225

Apr 17: Skokie; Rebecca Cohen Mem. Ed. Series: **Aging Happens; The Hidden Client – Working with Gay & Lesbian Older Adults**; Council for Jewish Elderly, Cr. for Applied Gerontology; Inst. for Clinical Soc. Work; Nat. Assoc. of Social Workers—Illinois; 773-508-1000.

Apr 19-21: Chicago; **26th An. Convening of Crisis Intervention Personnel**; *Convening & the In Touch Hotline of the Univ. at Chicago*, Ill. Dept. of Human Services; 708-383-5804.

May: Older Americans Month.

May 1-3: Champaign; **Ombudsman Quarterly Meeting**; Ill. Dept. on Aging; Neyna Johnson, 217-785-3140.

May 9-10: Naperville; **Volunteerism: The American Way**; Ill. Conf. on Volunteers Admin.; Carol Jones, 312-814-8454.

May 16-17: Springfield; **Ill. Family Literacy Conf.**; Ill. Dept. on Aging, Ill. Literacy Resource Dev. Ctr.; Mary Selinski, 217-785-3355.

May 20-21: Springfield; **7th An. Conf. on Alzheimer Disease and Related Dementias**; Ill. Dept. on Aging; SIU School of Medicine, Ctr. for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders; Alzheimer's Assoc., Land of Lincoln Chapter; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.

May 24: Oakbrook; **Workers on Aging Conf.**; *Northeastern Ill. Area Agency on Aging*; Suburban Area Agency on Aging; Deborah Janiszewski, 708-383-0258.

Jun 15: Countryside; **Passenger Assistance, Defense Driving or Emergency Procedures**; Ill. Dept. on Aging and Ill. Rural Transit Assist. Ctr.; Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706.

Jun 20: Springfield; **Jun 26:** Chicago; **Jun 27:** Countryside; **102 Ways to Energize Yourself and Others**; Ill. Dept. on Aging; John Lazell, 217-785-4225.

Jul 10-12: Grafton; **Illinois AIRS (Alliance of Information and Referral Systems, Inc)**; Heart of Illinois United Way; 800-338-4636.

Jul 23-25: Chicago; **16th An. Elder Rights Conference**; Ill. Dept. on Aging; Kathy Jump, 217-558-6706.

Calendar continued ➤

Calendar *continued*

Aug 9-18: Springfield; **Illinois State Fair.**

Aug 25-Sep 3: DuQuoin; **DuQuoin State Fair.**

Sep 11-13: Champaign; **Ombudsman Quarterly Meeting;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Neyna Johnson, 217-785-3140.*

Sep 24-25: Rend Lake Resort; **Sep 26-27:** Decatur; **19th An. Case Mgmt. Conf.;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Ill. Council of Case Coord. Units; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

Oct 2-3: Oakbrook Terrace; **Oct 8-9:** Starved Rock Lodge; **Oct 10-11:** Starved Rock Lodge; **19th An. Case Mgmt. Conf.;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging; Ill. Council of Case Coord. Units; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

Oct 12-14: Washington, D.C.; **3rd Inter'l. Conf. on Family Care;** *Nat. Alliance for Caregiving, Pfizer, Ortho Biotech, AXA Found.; 301-718-8444.*

Oct 15-16: Decatur; **6th An. Seminar for Ill. Sr. Ctrs.;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging, Assoc. of Ill. Sr. Ctrs., Ill. Assoc. of Park Districts; Matt Wescott, 217-785-3357.*

Dec 11-13, 2002: Chicago; **Governor's Conference on Aging and Human Services;** *Ill. Dept. on Aging and Ill. Dept. of Human Services; Dawn Shellhammer, 217-785-3387.*

Caregiver *continued*

The Illinois Department on Aging and the state's 13 Area Agencies on Aging established the Caregiver Resource Centers as part of the National Family Caregiver Support Program, which was created when the federal Older Americans Act was reauthorized in 2000.

Through the program, Illinois received \$4.7 million which was distributed through Area Agencies on Aging. Governor George H. Ryan appointed a Caregiver Advisory Committee to help in the ongoing implementation.

"Many times we think of parents making sacrifices for their children's well-being. I hope people will come to realize that later in life often the reverse is true, and that the Illinois Department on Aging wants to be there to help," Schreiber said.

For information about services for older people and their caregivers, contact the Illinois Department on Aging's toll-free Senior HelpLine at 1-800-252-8966 (Voice and TTY). ♣

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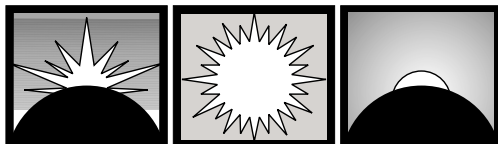
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